



# DEANNA ALEXANDER

## MILWAUKEE COUNTY SUPERVISOR



### Supervisor Alexander

Milwaukee County Board  
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Hello Neighbors,

This fall marked my 7th year of work on the Milwaukee County annual budget. While there have certainly been political conflicts between people in power about the proposed use of your tax dollars over the years, I feel relatively confident that we are making progress despite the odds and are in a better place today than we were in the past.

For example, we have the successes of dramatically reducing chronic homelessness; we have held regular cash bus fares steady for eight years in a row; we have reduced our spending on energy by more than \$4 million; and we have moved out of more than 1 million square feet of underutilized office space. We have transformed the institutionalized mental health system into a network of recovery-focused, community-based care options. Further, we approved a 2019 budget that increased county-wide spending at a rate less than the increase of new construction. This means there will be no added burden to your or your landlord's property tax bill. There are many people working in County government to help make Milwaukee County the best it can be.

I also encourage you to periodically attend (or view online) the Board of Supervisors' meetings held monthly. This type of civic involvement provides the best opportunity to become and remain knowledgeable about how your elected officials (including me) are representing your interests, working to avoid failures, and championing Milwaukee County's successes.

Finally, should you need assistance in dealing with any County service, such as a concern about property taxes, energy assistance, parks maintenance, or another matter of County concern, please reach out to my office so that we may see how we can help.

May your family be comforted and blessed this holiday season!

Kindly,

*Deanna Alexander*



*From left: 1. Supervisor Alexander is re-elected and signs the oath of office on inauguration day. 2. Supervisor Alexander visits with Foxconn leaders to learn about the types of jobs and opportunities this historic investment will bring to Wisconsin. 3. Supervisor Alexander discussing legislation with Supervisor Marcelia Nicholson prior to a board meeting.*

## How Does the Legislative Process Work in Milwaukee County?

An issue in Milwaukee County is identified and requires a solution.

An elected Supervisor or Milwaukee County department submits a proposed solution (resolution, ordinance, funding).

Board Chairperson may refer the proposed legislation to one of the nine committees.

A committee listens to public and expert testimony on the proposed legislation, deliberates, and votes on the item.

If a committee recommends approval or rejection of the legislation, it is brought to the full County Board for debate and a vote.

If a majority of Supervisors vote against adoption, it does not pass.\*

If a majority of Supervisors vote to adopt, the legislation passes.\*

Sign = Law

The County Executive can sign or veto the legislation.

If the County Executive vetoes the legislation, it returns to the County Board, which can override that action with a two-thirds vote.

Override = Law

\*Certain legislation, such as creating new employment positions, requires a two-thirds vote for adoption.

With nearly one million residents, Milwaukee County has the largest population of Wisconsin's 72 counties. The County encompasses 19 municipalities from the City of Milwaukee to Brown Deer and River Hills in the north, Wauwatosa on the west, and Franklin and Oak Creek in the south.

The Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is a diverse group of 18 elected officials. Each Supervisor represents and serves about 53,000 county residents.

These part-time supervisors are elected in non-partisan even-year spring elections for two-year terms. They are paid a partial salary without benefits and many also work a separate full-time job.

The County Board meets monthly as a group before the public to discuss and vote on proposed policies and ordinances. Various committees meet in the weeks before each board meeting to consider the details of each proposal and to give the public an opportunity to appear and speak. The board accepts public comment cards or verbal testimony at committee meetings, but full board meetings are aimed at only making final decisions on committee recommendations and do not include comments from the public.

### County Board Committees and upcoming meeting dates, in Courthouse Rm. 201:

- **Transportation, Public Works & Transit:** 9 a.m. - Jan. 23, 2019
- **Judiciary, Safety, & General Services\*:** 2 p.m. - *Note: Room 203R:* Jan. 24, 2019
- **Intergovernmental Relations\*:** 3:30 p.m. - (TENTATIVE): Jan. 24, 2019
- **Economic & Community Development:** 9 a.m. - Jan. 28, 2019
- **Parks, Energy & Environment:** 1 p.m. - Jan. 29, 2019
- **Personnel:** 9 a.m. - Jan. 24, 2019
- **Health & Human Needs\*:** 9 a.m. - Jan. 30, 2019
- **Finance & Audit:** 9 a.m. - Courthouse Room 203R: Jan. 31, 2019

\* Indicates a committee of which Supervisor Deanna Alexander is a member.

**County Board Meetings:** 9:30 a.m. - Courthouse Rm. 200: Dec. 13, 2018, Feb. 7, 2019.

**For more information about pending legislation, video recordings of past meetings, voting records, agendas, or information on additional scheduled meetings, please visit [www.Milwaukee.gov/CLIC](http://www.Milwaukee.gov/CLIC)**



## Key Policies and Votes

- I wrote an ordinance requiring the Vehicle Registration Fee Program (Wheel Tax) to only be allowed if reauthorized each year by a County Board vote. This was rejected and voted down by the board.



*Supervisor Alexander speaking on legislation to the County Board.*

- I sponsored a resolution seeking criminal justice reform in the State of Wisconsin in order to reduce mass incarceration safely and effectively. This was approved by the board.

- I sponsored a resolution requesting Milwaukee County, Racine County, the WI Dept. of Transportation, and FoxConn to coordinate a cooperative agreement for bus service bringing people to jobs. This was approved by the board.

- I wrote a resolution to equip the Housing Division with one additional full-time Community Outreach Position and allocating \$75,000 toward the Rapid-Re-Housing Program for unsheltered homeless. This was a particularly disheartening action because there are “tent cities” developing downtown outside the courthouse and beneath the freeways. I took the time to walk through these areas and talk with the homeless people living there. Each person I spoke with wished they had housing, was willing to work, and needed help getting back on their feet. Milwaukee County provides services to the public that would meet these needs, but is largely



*A tent city has appeared near the courthouse.*

reliant on complicated federal funding. I proposed using excess funds available to the county within the scope of our current budget to supplement the program and ensure these people would be housed before winter weather sets in. The county board never voted on the proposal because the committee chairman chose to deny it a hearing in time to take effect.



*Meeting with the Waukesha County Business Alliance.*

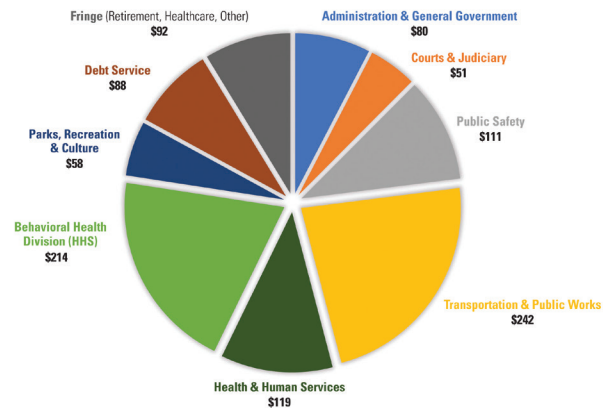
- I voted to direct the Milwaukee County Transit System to continue Route 61 for eight more months in 2019. This route brings Milwaukee residents to jobs in Menomonee Falls and Germantown. This route was originally created using one-time funding that has run out. Long-term funding remains unfulfilled and we are hopeful to seek a cross-governmental public-private partnership in supporting the route beyond the extended deadline.
- I voted in favor of supporting the creation of a Secured Residential Care Center for Children and Youth here in Milwaukee County so that we can responsibly bring troubled youth home from the Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake youth prisons in which many have been abused.

## The Budget

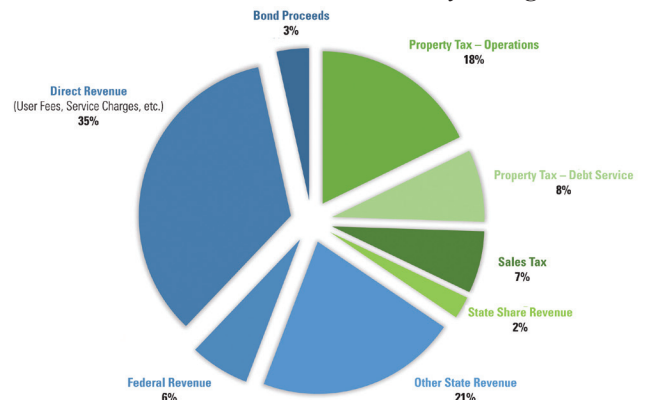
While Milwaukee County's budget is large and complex, here are a few bite-sized updates about County taxing and spending:

Milwaukee County's budget gap, or the amount of money that we needed to come up with in order to keep everything stable from one year to the next, is about \$17.5 Million per year. The County currently spends about \$1.1 Billion per year - enough to stack piles of \$100 bills higher than the world's tallest building!

### Where does the money go? 2018 Operating Expenses - Current County Budget



### Where does the money come from? 2018 Revenues - Current County Budget



Our budget must, by law, be balanced. As our ability to tax or raise revenue is limited, cuts to services or increases in fees will likely be used to balance future budgets. However, we are also looking at the funding formulas for revenue the State provides.

Milwaukee County is pursuing “The Fair Deal:” our request that the State of Wisconsin re-examine the funding formula for how tax dollars are allocated to the local level. The state has been taking more and more money from Milwaukee taxpayers over the years. Although tax rates have decreased, the total quantity of dollars the state receives has gone up. Meanwhile, the state has handcuffed County government, disallowing most revenue increases, while refusing to share any of the increased taxes collected from Milwaukee. The Fair Deal asks the state to fairly consider the evidence affecting Milwaukee as the state's economic engine.

For a deeper explanation on our County's budget, visit the County Budget Information tab under the County Executive header at [County.Milwaukee.gov](http://County.Milwaukee.gov)

## Sex Trafficking: How Do We Battle This?

Did you know that Milwaukee is, sadly, one of the most active human trafficking hubs in the nation? Human trafficking is the commercial sale of a person, often for sexual gratification, through means of force or fraud or coercion. Media campaigns decrying sex trafficking and news reports talking about the epidemic are not enough to combat it.



The Lotus Legal Clinic is a new non-profit organization in Milwaukee that supports and empowers survivors of gender-based violence and human trafficking. The clinic works to protect and enforce the legal rights of those affected by human trafficking by providing free legal counsel to survivors, regardless of income; by supporting policy initiatives that will create systemic change in our judicial system; and by educating the community and legal system.

In 2017 the clinic provided free services to 40 clients, trained 33 victim advocates on post-conviction relief for survivors of human trafficking, and assisted 5 sex trafficking survivors to obtain work in advocacy positions to prevent harm and educate at risk youth. For example, LOTUS represented Kristina, a young woman survivor of sex trafficking who needed legal counsel because she had substantial criminal history as a result of her trafficking experience. She was able to escape her trafficker and made amazing strides in recovery – enrolling in and graduating from college and stabilizing her personal life. However, even after her hard work and accomplishments, she was denied employment due to her old arrest record. LOTUS worked with Kristina to file a petition to vacate and seal her criminal record as a victim of trafficking. Now she can finally move on with her goals and dreams, including helping to inspire and support other survivors.

Reach out and get to know the Lotus Legal Clinic:

- If you know someone in need of holistic legal services to protect them from the ripple effects of sex trafficking, prostitution, #MeToo situations, and gender-based abuses.
- If you are looking for a donation or volunteer opportunity that will make a difference in the lives of others.
- If your organization would like an educational presentation on the problem of sex trafficking here in Milwaukee.

**The Lotus Legal Clinic is located at 11933 W. Burleigh St., Suite 202 in Milwaukee and can be reached at (414) 885-1469 or [www.lotuslegal.org](http://www.lotuslegal.org)**

## Washington, D.C. Trip

President Trump took up an initiative this year to invite every County Executive and every County Supervisor in the nation to visit the White House and to meet with his advisors and administrators in federal departments. Supervisor Alexander answered that call and along with Supervisors Staskunas, Taylor, Logsdon, and Ortiz-Velez, traveled to Washington D.C. to represent Milwaukee County. At the meeting, Supervisors shared concerns with federal officials, such as

the need for more thoughtful coordination between the levels of government when planning and funding federally supported local projects. The administration shared their goal of helping local officials develop better human services options for dealing with the severe drug abuse faced with the opioid epidemic.



***From top:** 1. While in Washington, D.C., Supervisor Alexander had the opportunity to meet Kellyanne Conway, Counselor to the President. 2. Representing Milwaukee County in Washington, D.C. were, from left, Supervisors Ortiz-Velez, Taylor, Staskunas, Logsdon, and Alexander.*

## Volunteers Needed

We are continually looking for qualified candidates to volunteer to serve on boards and commissions that oversee a large variety of subjects and make wide-ranging decisions, or give advice affecting the day to day lives of Milwaukee County residents. For example:

- Aging & Disability Resource Center Governing Board
- Airport Noise Advisory Commission
- EMS Council
- Ethics Board
- Marcus Center Board of Directors
- Milwaukee County Historical Society Board of Directors
- and many others...

If you wish to apply to a board or commission please contact the County Executive's office at (414) 278-4212.

## Fall 2018 Survey: Share Your Opinions

Do you feel that at the present time, Milwaukee County is generally going in the right direction? \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you feel this way? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a current problem navigating County government that we could help you solve? \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, describe here: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please circle a rating below to show your satisfaction with Milwaukee County Government:



1

2

3

4

5



6

7

8

9

10



What one specific thing could be reasonably changed in the coming year that would improve your rating of County government? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

**To Submit, please mail to:**

Deanna Alexander, Milwaukee County Supervisor, 901 N. 9th St. Room 201, Milwaukee, WI 53233

## 2019 SPRING ELECTIONS INFORMATION

**Spring Primary Election – Tuesday, February 19, 2019**

**Spring General Election – Tuesday, April 2, 2019**

As of the printing of this newsletter, the law states that each voter will need to provide a Photo ID. If you do not have a Photo ID, you can obtain one for voting purposes for NO DIRECT COST TO YOU at our local DMV Center - 7301 W. Mill Rd., open Mon-Fri 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. & Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. For questions about voting or what to bring with you to the DMV to obtain a free ID, please call the Milwaukee County Election Commission at 278-4060. If you have any problems obtaining a Photo ID to vote, please contact Supervisor Alexander's office and we will be glad to aid you.



**Offices open for election on the 2019 spring ballot include:**

- School Board Directors: Districts 1, 2, 3, 8, and the seat At-Large
- Municipal Judges: Branches 2 and 3
- State of Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice
- Circuit Court Justices: Branches 11 and 26

Visit **BringIt.Wisconsin.gov** online for more info on Voter ID and visit **MyVoteWI.gov** to view your ballot before going to vote! To receive text alerts, text **MKE VOTE** to **468311**.





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PRSRT STD  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Milwaukee, WI  
Permit 500

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*In April 2018 Supervisor Alexander was re-elected for a third term and four new Supervisors joined the Milwaukee County Board. Here is the entire board together.*



For legislative files, agendas, minutes and schedules for all Milwaukee County committee and board meetings, please visit the County Legislative Information Center at:  
**[county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC](http://county.milwaukee.gov/CLIC)**

## Key Government Contacts

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT

**Supervisor Deanna Alexander ..... 278-4259**  
County Executive ..... 278-4211  
Child Support..... 615-2593  
Office For Persons With Disabilities ..... 278-3932  
Parks ..... 257-7275  
Sheriff (non-emergency) ..... 226-7000  
Transit..... 344-6711  
Veterans Services ..... 266-1234

### CITY GOVERNMENT

**EMERGENCY ..... 9-1-1**  
City of Milwaukee ..... 286-CITY (2489)  
(Street lights, potholes, garbage, litter)  
Fire (non-emergency) ..... 286-8948  
Police (non-emergency) ..... 933-4444

### COMMUNITY SERVICES

**Personal crisis or disaster? ..... Call 2-1-1**  
**Report child abuse or neglect..... 220-SAFE (7233)**  
**Looking for work? ..... EmployMilwaukee.org**  
**Home Energy Assistance ..... 270-4653**

**Supervisor Alexander invites you to enjoy these FREE County attractions:**



#### MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM

**Free the first Thursday of every month for all visitors.**  
Visit [www.mam.org](http://www.mam.org) for more information.



#### MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM

**Free the first Thursday of every month.**  
**County residents get \$2 off every day.**  
Visit [www.mpm.edu](http://www.mpm.edu) for more info and more free days.



#### MITCHELL PARK DOMES

**Free on Mondays from 9 a.m. until Noon for County residents. Excludes holidays.**  
Visit [www.milwaueedomes.org](http://www.milwaueedomes.org) for more information.



#### MILWAUKEE COUNTY ZOO

**Free Days, 2018: Dec. 1. 2019: Jan. 5, Feb. 2, Mar. 2, Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Thanksgiving, Christmas & New Year's Day.**  
Visit [www.milwaukeezoo.org](http://www.milwaukeezoo.org) for more information.



#### CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM

**Free the first Wednesday of every month for all visitors.**  
Visit [www.charlesallis.org](http://www.charlesallis.org) for more information.



#### VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM

**Free the first Wednesday of every month for all visitors.**  
Visit [www.villaterrace.org](http://www.villaterrace.org) for more information.